

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today joined Rep. Steve King of Iowa and other House colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation to require the Army Corps of Engineers to change the way it seeks to control flooding along the Missouri River.

"Families and communities along the Missouri River have been devastated by this year's unprecedented flooding," Fortenberry said. "The 2011 flood and its extraordinary impacts necessitate a re-evaluation of river management. This bill requires the Army Corps of Engineers to manage upstream reservoirs for the purpose of preventing catastrophic flooding events that negatively impact all Missouri River users."

The House legislation, H.R. 2942, would direct the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers to revise the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual to ensure greater storage capacity to prevent serious downstream flooding. Upstream reservoirs would be required to remain low enough to accommodate high levels of runoff and prevent devastating downstream floods.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Missouri River Flood Working Group, which was created to examine the causes of the 2011 floods and prevent future significant flooding.

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